

5222/14764– INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW OF MEXICO

PROFESSOR IGNACIO PINTO–LEON

SYLLABUS AND RULES

SPRING 2026

WEDNESDAYS 4 - 6 PM

Instruction Mode: face-to-face

Contact info:

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Office hours:

Via Zoom or in-person, by appointment

713-338-2879

- (1) JAN. 21 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN LEGAL SYSTEM.
- (2) JAN. 28 – MEXICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FEDERALISM AND SEPARATION OF POWERS UNDER SIEGE
- (3) FEB. 4 – THE (NEW) MEXICAN JUDICIARY
- (4) FEB. 11 – JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
- (5) FEB. 18 – CIVIL PROCEDURE AND CONFLICTS OF LAWS
- (6) FEB. 25 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN CIVIL CODES
- (7) MAR. 4 – OBLIGATIONS (CONTRACTUAL AND EXTRA-CONTRACTUAL)
- (8) MAR. 11 – MEXICAN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE
- (9) MAR. 25 – MEXICAN COMMERCIAL LAW
- (10) APR. 1 – ENERGY LAW
- (11) APR. 8 – THE USMCA (FORMERLY NAFTA): WHAT’S NEW, WHAT’S OLD
- (12) APR. 15 – HOW TO RESEARCH MEXICAN LAW
- (13) APR. 22 – PRACTICAL ASPECTS AND INTERACTIONS OF MEXICAN LAW WITH THE U.S. PRACTITIONER
- (14) APR. 29 – LAST SESSION: FIESTA / TERTULIA

There is no textbook in this subject. Required reading materials will be distributed through the semester before each session.

Attendance policy

Students are required to attend at least to 80% of the classes. There will be 14 sessions. The maximum absences allowed to comply with this policy is 2 sessions. If you missed 3 classes, you would be under the 80%

Student participation

Student participation is expected. Students should be ready for class, with their assignments. Repeated unpreparation will be noted and could be used to mark down somebody's grade.

Grading info

The final grade will be based on a 2-hour, in-classroom open book **final exam**. The final exam will consist of a combination of essay, multiple choice and true/false questions.

Learning Outcomes:

By taking this course, students will be able to:

- (1)** Understand the structure of the Mexican legal system,
- (2)** Identify the points of encounter and dissimilitude between the Mexican and the American legal systems,
- (3)** Engage in legal analysis and reasoning, problem-solving, and written and oral communication relating to Mexican law, and
- (4)** Develop due diligence pointers to find and work with Mexican counsel.

Community and Wellness

This is an inclusive learning community.

At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed.

In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity.

Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Mental Health Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

Title XI/Sexual Misconduct Policies

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

General. Generative artificial intelligence is a form of machine learning that creates new and original output based on the data it has been trained on or has access to, employing algorithms to generate content in response to prompts. Examples of the technology include what are known as generative “large language models” (LLMs). Two well-known LLM implementations are ChatGPT and Claude. LLM output can include text, images, music, code, and more. This syllabus policy covers the textual output of generative LLMs (AIGenerated Work Product)—which can include computer code or programs and human-language content. Because AIGenerated Work Product can often mimic human intelligence, it could potentially be used as a substitute for a student's own work product. Such use is potentially problematic to the extent that it becomes a substitute for internalized student understanding of the material or creates a dependency on AI-Generated Work Product, which may be strictly prohibited in settings that include the bar examination.

Prohibition. Subject to the exceptions immediately below, your continuing enrollment in this course constitutes your pledge not to generate or to use any AI-Generated Work Product—whether from yourself or others—in relation to any assessment in this course. The term “assessment” means any graded or ungraded work product for this course that is submitted to the instructor, presented in a class session, or used in an oral or written graded assessment for this course.

Exceptions. The following AI-Generated Work Product uses are exceptions to the preceding prohibition. The exceptions’ intent is to allow the generation and use of AI-Generated Work Product for specific, narrowly defined activities related to this course.

- You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for class preparation, although you must disclose the full extent of that use if your instructor asks. You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for study supplements to aid with general understanding of course content. This could take different forms that include creating examples or explanations of a concept, generation of diagrams and flow charts, “gamification” of course content, flash cards for study, or sample questions and answers.
- You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for an outline that summarizes the course content.
- You may use AI-Generated Work Product to check your originally drafted text for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity, effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things.
- You may use AI-Generated Work Product for the purpose of language translation.